DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 105 831 IR 001 860

AUTHOR	Vladimirov, L. I.
TITLE	The Role of Library Schools in Planning Research Activities in the Field of Library Sciences.
PUB DATE	Nov 74
NOTE	23p.; Paper presented at the General Council Meeting of the International Federation of Library Associations (40th, Washington, D.C., November 17-23, 1974)
EDRS PRICE	MF-$0.76 HC-$1.58 PLUS POSTAGE
DESCRIPTORS	Agency Role; Centralization; Cooperative Planning; *Coordination; Foreign Countries; Government Role; Information Systems; Institutional Role; Interinstitutional Cooperation; International Organizations; *International Programs; Library Networks; *Library Research; *Library Schools; Library Science; Master Plans; Research Projects; *Scientific Research
IDENTIFIERS	IFLA 74; ISORID; UNESCO; *Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; USSR

ABSTRACT

To avoid duplication of effort, and to prevent a waste of the resources of research institutions and the time and energy of research personnel, coordination of scientific research in the field of library science within countries and on an international basis is necessary. An important step toward the creation of a world-wide system of control and planning of research activities is the establishment by UNESCO of the International System of Research Investigation and Documentation, ISORID. The Soviet Union is engaged in a state system of planning based on long range and short range plans, with defined, specific research targets. The topic of the scientific research must be of great importance, unique and realistic, must solve a definite scientific problem and contribute to the respective field of science. An ever-increasing importance in the research programs is being attached to the building of library networks and information systems, especially their centralization, integration, specialization, and coordination. The necessity of active research in the library schools has been stressed. The topics investigated must be in line with the main objectives and trends of research. A centralized and obligatory state system of registration of all research works is maintained. (PF)

ED105831

IFLA/FIAP

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

40th session, November 1974,

WASHINGTON

SECTION OF LIBRARY SCHOOLS

L.I.VLADIMIROV
(USSR)

THE ROLE OF LIBRARY SCHOOLS IN PLANNING RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF LIBRARY SCIENCE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
EDUCATION
THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRO
DUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM
THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGIN
ATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS
STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRE
SENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

IR 001 860

IFLA General Council Meeting Washington 1974

L.I.Vladimirov
USSR

Section of Library
Schools

THE ROLE OF LIBRARY SCHOOLS IN PLANNING RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Abstract

The paper is dealing with the system of planning of scientific research in the field of library science as functioning in the Soviet library schools. The system has its characteristic features: first of all, the targets of the plan are to be brought into conformity with the acute needs of the society, there also must be taken into consideration the existing material conditions necessary to carry out the research plan, and finally, the research planned or the results achieved by other research institutions in the respective fields, and that not only in the Soviet Union, but also abroad. The research plans worked out in the library schools for one-year and five-year periods have to be founded upon those general and fundamental trends and targets of the development of research, as they are defined in the long-term /fifteen-year/ plans.

The process of working out the research plans begins within the respective departments of the school.

The plans have to reflect the versatile research activities of the department, not only the individual research works carried out by each member of the faculty, but also the works carried out through a postgraduate thesis or done on the basis of a contract with other institutions, and even the research adtivities of the students' research societies. But the

departments, in spite of this diversityof the research activities, have to avoid a waste of research efforts and to swing all these efforts towards the solution of actual complex problems.

Great importance for a rational planning of research has the establishment in the USSR of a centralized state system of registration and control of research works. An important step towards the creation of an analogical world system is the establishment by UNESCO of the ISORID.

Секция библиотечных школ

Л.И.Владимиров
СССР

РОЛЬ БИБЛИОТЕЧНЫХ ВУЗОВ В ПЛАНИРОВАНИИ НАУЧНО-ИССЛЕДОВАТЕЛЬСКОЙ РАБОТЫ В ОБЛАСТИ БИБЛИОТЕКОВЕДЕНИЯ

В докладе на примере советских библиотечных вузов показывается система планирования научно-исследовательской работы в области библиотековедения. Характерными чертами этих планов являются общественная актуальность выдвигаемых в них заданий, учет реальных возможностей их выполнения, координация действий с другими исследовательскими коллективами, а также учет достигнутых в этой области результатов как в СССР, так и за рубежом. Составляемые в вузах годовые и пятилетние планы разрабатываются на основе тех общих главных направлений науки, которые определены в долгосрочном /пятнадцатилетнем/ плане. Разработка государственных планов начинается с подготовки и утверждения планов кафедр, составляемых с учетом всех возможностей их многогранной деятельности, которая не должна ограничиваться взятыми на себя отдельными преподавателями плановыми исследовательскими заданиями. В плане должна быть отражена и подготовка диссертаций, и исследовательские работы, выполняемые кафедрой на хоздоговорных началах, и даже деятельность студенческих научных кружков и обществ. Однако кафедры не должны распылять свои силы на решение разнородных мелких частных задач, а нацеливать исследовательскую деятельность своего коллектива на решение наиболее актуальных комплексных проблем.

Правильному определению плановых заданий способствует введение в СССР государственной централизованной системы регистрации и учета всех научно-исследовательских работ. Важным шагом к созданию аналогичной мировой системы нужно считать учреждение ЮНЕСКО Международной системы о научных исследованиях и документации /ИСОРИД/.

L.I.Vladimirov
/USSR/

Section of
Library Schools

THE ROLE OF LIBRARY SCHOOLS IN PLANNING RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF LIBRARY SCIENCE

The principle of planning is one of the characteristic features of the economic and cultural development of a socialist society, one of the specific regularities of its development, valid for all fields of its activity, including research. To believe John Kenneth Galbraith[1/], a developed industrial capitalist economy could hardly function in our time of scientific technical revolution and impetuous development of research without a definite element of planning.

Introduction of advanced methods of planning is particularly important in large developed states with great masses of scientists and scientific institutions involved in research activities. In those states the conduct of research activities on planned lines is a "condition sine qua non", indispensable to avoid duplication in research, the unproductive waste of resources of the research institutions and time and energy of the research personnel. The necessity of planning and co-ordination was stressed by A.N.Kossygin: "...big contemporary scientific investigations are simply inconceivable without broad and well organized co-ordination of many institutions and enterprises".[2/]

Co-ordination of scientific efforts, of course, is quite possible and useful not only within one country but also on a world-wide scale. Favourable conditions for this co-ordination in the field of librarianship are created by our co-operation within the International Federation of Library Associations. IFLA can and has to become an important organizing and inspiring centre in expansion of inter-

national co-operation of scientific activities, in exchange of experience in the field of research-methodology, the research-planning included.

In this paper I shall rely in the main upon the Soviet experience in the field as more familiar to me. I hope that in the discussions the representatives of other countries taking part in the work of our section will supplement my paper and thus contribute to a better understanding of the problem.

I understand the term "planning" here in a rather broad sense. First of all, the process of planning presupposes a definition of the most actual for the said period trends and problems of research; secondly, the realistic planning is impossible without a comprehensive registration and generalization of the achieved results and research plans of other scientific institutions.

The determination of the line of research, the knowledge of the achieved results and the comprehensive information about the current research activities, and this not only in his own country but also globally, are the major preconditions of a realistic planning.

In the Soviet Union there is a definite state system of planning. The major scientific and technological problems are reflected in the targets of five-year plans which in their turn are based on long-term plans of development of research and technology and as the proposals of the USSR ministries and institutions and of the Councils of Ministers of the individual Union republics.[3/]

A long-term /perspective/ plan - in our country these plans are usually worked out for a fifteen-year period - is a concretization of the social-economic policy of Party and Government. In such a plan general targets are set not only for the whole period, but there are also defined specific targets for each of the five-year periods. In the five-year plans the general targets of a long-

term plan receive a greater concretization and specification, and besides general targets for the whole period there are usually specific targets set for each year of the five-year period. The plans for a year are subject to even greater specification and concretization of targets.

At present the Soviet Union is nearing the successful completion of the Ninth five-year plan /1971-1975/ and is now engaged in the complex and tedious work to create a perspective plan for the years 1976-1990 and of a new five-year plan /1976-1980/. In connection with this, proper plans for the development of research and technology are being worked out for definite fields of the research activities, including those in librarianship and scientific information.

In determining the targets of the plan of the development of scientific research activities, one has to proceed from the actual needs of the society, from the objectives of the economic and cultural development of the country. We are living in an epoch of the scientific and technological revolution which requires also a cardinal reorganization of the library and information services. In the Soviet Union in conneection with the switch-over from seven-year education to general secondary education and with the impressive growth of training of specialists with higher and special secondary education and also in connection with the further expansion of the research activities, libraries and information centers encounter an ever-increasing flow of readers and consumers of information with quantitatively and qualitatively more complex requirements, to meet which we have to use rational organizational forms, more effective and more subtle methods and means. Reorganization of activities and application of new methods and technological means make the libraries and information centers face the

swelling avalanche of printed production, the so-called "information explosion". Bearing in mind that to subdue this avalanche and to solve the objectives of a more operative and comprehensive satisfaction of the demands of information is hardly possible by using the traditional "manufactory" means and methods, the libraries and services of scientific information are beginning to introduce more advanced methods of work and the newest techniques, first of all, the electronic computers and also the means of reprography, microfilming, telecomminication etc. This peculiar "technological revolution" in the field of library and information, to receive an organized, purposeful and constructive character, requires also as the other mentioned phenomena too, a profound analysis, foresight, research which all have to find their adequate reflection in the perspective and the year-plans of scientific research activities.

A conclusive proof that all these phenomena are given due consideration you can get by analyzing the scientific production for the last years. The topic structure of research has been changed in a radical way. Formerly there prevailed historical subjects, now these subjects are moved to the background. An ever-increasing importance in the research programmes is being attached to subjects and topics investigating not the experience of separate libraries, as it has been before, but the most rational principles of building library networks and information systems, especially problems of their centralization, integration, specialization and co-ordination, and of course, problems investigating the introduction of the most rational methods and the most effective means to serve the readers with books and information, including the new techniques, particularly in the organization of the holdings and the reference apparatus.

Their definite place in the research plans are getting the biblio-psychological and sociological aspects,analyzing the change in

the readers' "audience" and in the structure of their interests and informational needs.

But these changes in the thematic structure of the research in library and information science have been investigated at greater length during the 37th session of IFLA at the meetings of our section and of the Committee on Library Theory and Research[4/] and I shall not return to these problems. I would like only to stress the point that these changes are characteristic not only of the Soviet Union but also of the majority of other countries where research in this field is done as it was convincingly proved on the example of the United States by A.J.Eaton.[5/]

Therefore, confining myself to the subject of my paper, I shall deal not with the questions of the thematic structure of the research plans of the library schools but with the organizational structure of these plans.

As it is well known, the scientific research in the field of librarianship is in the main conducted by two types of institutions: libraries and library schools. Some contribution to this research is being done by public library organizations and sporadically springing up independent research institutions and laboratories of these types, but in their research work the latter are leaning in the main on the libraries or the library schools and their share in the total research production given by hundreds of library schools and thousands of libraries is comparatively small.

Scientific research is an obligatory function of an institution of higher education, higher library schools included. A library school which is not taking part in the research activities can hardly be considered a full-fledged institution. The participation in research activities has not only positive impact on the growth of the prestige of

the school but also potently affects the theoretical level of the lecturers and the qualifications of the specialists graduating from the school.

In the Soviet Union the necessity of more active research activities of the schools of higher education has been stressed in a number of documents issued by directive organs of the state. So the Central Committee of the Communist Party and the USSR Council of Ministers in the decrees "On further development of scientific research activities in the institutions of higher education" /February 20, 1964/ and "On arrangements to further the effectiveness of the work of research organizations and to accelerate the use of the achievements of research and technology in the national economy" /September 24, 1968/ made the scientific pedagogical staff responsible to participate actively in the drive for scientific-technological progress in the national economy, in the development of the social and natural sciences. Stressing the growing role of science in the process of the production and the intellectual life of the people, the 24th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party has defined in its decisions the responsibilities of the institutions of higher education under existing conditions. These directive documents have urged the library schools to turn their attention to the expansion and deepening of the scientific research activities. Some of the library schools have issued proper statutes and regulations, e.g. the Leningrad State Institute of Culture has prepared and approved a new statute on research activities, the first paragraph of which runs as follows: "The scientific research is an integral part of the activities of an institution of higher education, the expansion of research activities will favourably affect the process of education and the level of the training of specialists".[6/]

In accordance with the statute of the Soviet institutions of higher education each member of the teaching staff has within the limits of a six-hour working day to be engaged in the teaching, methodologic and scientific work; for the latter two activities are alloted from 400 to 800 hours of the time budget. Before the beginning of the academic year, each member of the teaching staff has to draw up a plan in which all the above activities are envisaged, this plan being confirmed by the department of faculty.

The object of the planning of scientific research is a scientific topic. Every topic has to solve a definite objective, very important for the given field of science and contributing to the technological progress.[7/] A topic of a research work in an institution of higher education may be: carrying out of a scientific investigation, compiling of research studies and next books, preparation of scientific papers, reviewing or dating of research work, guidance of a dissertation, etc.

The topic of a research work - individual or collective - is confirmed at the sitting of the department. The topic has to be in line with the main objectives and trends of research, as they are defined in the long-term plans, and has to take into consideration the objectives and potentialities of the department. Thereupon this topic has to be approved by the academic councils of the faculty and the institution of higher education and is introduced in the joint year-plan of research activities of the institution.

The topic of the scientific research work has to be of great importance, unique and realistic. The topic has to be finished not by a formal report about its completion but it has to solve a definite scientific problem and contribute to the respective field of science and to give a certain effect.

But that is only one of the aspects of a balanced organization of research work, and that within the limits of one school. The other, no less important aspect is the question of co-ordination of these activities within the limits of the whole country. A co-ordination of research in the field of librarianship if compared with other fields of science has some specific difficulties. In the USSR we do not have for the present a specialized research centre which could be placed at the head of all other institutions doing research in the field of librarianship, theory of bibliography, history of book.[8/]

Research in these fields, besides the institutions of higher education, is being carried out by the universal and special libraries, the book-chambers, the services of the scientific information, etc. which all are under the administrative authority of various ministries and departments - Ministries of Culture and Higher Education, the USSR State Committee on Science and Technology and the USSR State Publishing Committee, the Presidium of the USSR Academy of Sciences, etc.

Diverse administrative affiliations complicate the scientific contacts and mutual connections among the institutions and mostly limit these connections to a rather scanty exchange of information. But at the same time our century requires further profound studies in library theory, analysis of the library development, deep prognostication, a co-ordinated approach to complex problems, solution of which is possible only by means of close constructive co-operation of all the institutions interested in the development of libraries.[9/]

Definite steps in this direction have been already taken. As far back as 1967 the USSR V.Lenin State library in Moscow was entrusted with the task to co-ordinate throughout the country the scientific research activities of the universal scientific libraries, institutes of culture, departments of library and information science of the

universities and the pedagogical institutes. A vital role in strengthening the principles and methods of planning in this field was played by the directives of the USSR Minister of Culture Nr. 547 of October 1st. 1971 "On the organization of the scientific research activities in the field of librarianship and bibliography". In this document measures were defined to promote further strengthening of the organizational basis of the library science. First of all, the head research institutions were confirmed: the USSR V.Lenin State library and the State Institute of Culture in Moscow[10/]. They were made responsible for working out the most important problems of librarianship and bibliography. The fact that the metropolitan library school was confirmed as a head institution to plan and co-ordinate the scientific research activities besides the central library of the country, symbolizes the engagement of the library schools in the problems of practical work of the libraries, the ties of theory and practice. In addition head institutions responsible for research in particular problems of the library science and bibliography were established: a. Council on general theoretic problems of the library science and of the history of librarianship; b. Council on the library bibliographic resources of information and the problems of their development; c. Council on the problems of the book and reading in the Soviet society; d. Council on the problems of the unified library system; e. Council on library bibliographic classification and information retrieval languages. The membership of these councils was formed by inclusion of the most outstanding specialists in the respective fields. The activities of all these problem councils are co-ordinated by the Council on coordination of scientific research in the field of library science and bibliography, attached to the USSR Ministry of Culture. The first three years of the functioning of this system

of guidance and planning of research activities have proved its great potentialities.

Analogical trends to apply the principles and methods of planning in the scientific research activities in the field of library science are also characteristic of other countries. E.g. in 1972 the American Library Association reorganized its Library Research Round Table, the functions of which have been to stimulate the extension and improvement of library research, into a respective ALA section. The main objective of this new section is not only to stimulate and ameliorate the research efforts in the field of library science, but also to recommend a general programme and policy and to define the most urgent problems of research.

This event was qualified by the American literary community as a positive fact which can help to avoid the "non-cumulativity" and the "fragmentarity" of the library research activities, characteristic of them in the past and to switch over to a system in which planning and co-ordination would be conducted on all levels and would embrace all the scientific research centres - library schools, libraries and other organizations.[11/]

The planning of the scientific research work in the library schools, if compared with the libraries, has its specific features. The research activities of a library school are more versatile than those in the libraries, they are conducted by different kinds of executants and with various aims. A research work may be planned work of a member of the teaching staff or a collective work of them, as everyone of them in the Soviet Union ought to give a definite scientific production. It may be also accomplished by an individual staff member by an order of a publishing firm to prepare for publishing a scientific monography or a text book, it may be done on the basis of a contract with an institution when under certain conditions

the researcher is doing investigation on a problem very important to this institution, it may be carried out through a postgraduate thesis /dissertation/ in the course of the so called "aspirantura" or "doktorantura", finally research is carried out in the students' research circles and societies. In a full-blooded library school all the above mentioned opportunities to further the research are being used, and if the whole process is properly organized on a basis of a rational plan, we can, in spite of some diversity of the research activities, avoid a waste of the research efforts, to swing all these efforts to the solution of actual complex problems and achieve considerable results.

Such an important part of the scientific research as the preparation of doctoral theses is completely concentrated in the library schools. The main plants for production of scientific personnel are the N.R.Krupskaya State Institute of Culture in Leningrad and the State Institute of Culture in Moscow. During the 1971-1972 academic year two doctoral and 39 candidate of science dissertations have been maintained in the two institutes. It makes 95% of all the dissertations maintained in the Soviet Union in the field of library science, bibliography and in other related sciences.[12/]

A certain number of theses is maintained each year in the universities, in the first place in those which have departments of library and information science. Thus in the Vilnius V.Kapsukas State University in 1973 one doctoral dissertation and one candidate have been granted respective degrees.

A special place in the plans of the scientific research activities of a library school is alloted for the research done under a contract with interested institutions, libraries, information services, etc. Contracts of this kind are useful for both parties. The "client" gets qualified scientific assistance in solving

complex theoretical problems, the library schools as "executors" are getting involved into solution of actual problems of library and information "industry" and, besides this, they are getting additional funds to expand their educational and research activities and to strengthen the material security of the school. The experience of my department of library and information science in Vilnius which has contracts with the Ministry of Higher and Special Secondary Education of the republic and with the Lithuanian Institute of Scientific and Technological Information gave a convincing example of co-operation between science and production. A research laboratory for problems of scientific information was established and attached to the department. The research activities of the faculty got a more concrete, affective character.

In this respect of particular interest to us is the experience of the American library schools. Some of them have established entire research centres and laboratories from the funds earned through contracts.[13/]

In the plans of research activities of a library school the participation of students in these activities is also to be reflected. This participation has not to be limited only to activities of students in their scientific circles and societies, but they have to be involved in the research activities of the faculty and even in the research done under a contract. Some positive experience in this respect has been accumulated by the department of library and information science of the Vilnius university and its research laboratory for problems of scientific information. E.G., an analysis of the informational needs and interests of the system of the Ministry of Higher and Special Secondary Education with the help of students working under the guidance of experienced researchers has been carried out and thus a definite contribution was made to the solution of the problem to further the work of the Ministry by optimizing the process of providing

the Ministry and other institutions of its system with information. This work was done by the laboratory under the contract with the Ministry. In this respect of great interest is the experience of the Centre for Documentation and Communication Research of the School of Library Science, Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, USA, reported not far ago by one of the leading researchers of this center Tefko Saracevic in his paper "Linking research and teaching".[14/]

Potentialities inherent in the use of the student's body in the research activities of the library schools are very wide and it enables the schools to extend these activities. This specific advantage of a library school has to be used in every possible way. Therefore, the teaching and research plans of the faculty, and plans of the research activities of the students' scientific societies have to be taken into consideration drafting the research plans.

Coming to the end I would like to touch upon one more problem, which is important for a rational planning of the research activities. That is the problem of a systematic registration of the research done or planned.

In the Soviet Union a centralized and obligatory state system of registration of all research works is functioning. For the last years this system was substantially expanded and strengthenend. The Organization and control of this system was entrusted to the State Committe on Science and Technology under the USSR Council of Ministers. This Committee on its part has charged with this function the All-union Centre of Scientific and Technological Information

The dissertations defended in the Soviet Union are registred in the periodically published "Catalogue of the Candidate and Doctoral Dissertations received by the V. Lenin State Library and the Central Scientific Medical Library".[15/]

In the United States - a country with a comparatively large volume of research done for the present, there does not exist a central institution which would register all published, carried out or planned research works.[16/] Therefore the appearance of the lists "Library and information Science to-day, an international registry of research and innovation", New York, is rather significant. The informational potentialities of these lists are very great. List 1973 carries detail of 1255 research projects and bears reports from 2364 researchers in 41 American states and 40 foreign countries.

In these lists especially comprehensively is represented the research done in the USA, Canada and the United Kingdom. The scientific works carried out in other countries are registered rather sporadically, and it is quite understandable that they "embrace the unembraceable".

The objective of the realization of a universal bibliographic control of the research activities in the field of librarianship can be solved only by UNESCO.

An important step towards the creation of this world system of control and planning of research activities is the establishment by UNESCO of an international system of research investigation and documentation /ISORID/.[17/] As the iniciators of this project explained, it has been undertaken in view of the fact that at present throughout the world a great number of research projects in the field of scientific information and librarianship are being carried out and that the need of information of the projects conducted is of acute

need and usefulness. This information is called to help to improve the planning of research activities on national and international levels, to direct the research efforts along the right channels, to avoid duplication of efforts, etc. The UNESCO Bulletin for Libraries informs us that the ISORID envisages to issue an international register of completed, conducted and planned research projects and investigations. The accumulated data are documented by means of computer. For this purpose a thesaurus is created. The compiled information data and materials will be provided to member states of the UNESCO and also to institutions and specialists interested in such information.

The success of this project depends to a substantial degree on the comprehensiveness of the materials and information with which the member states will supply UNESCO, and of course, this on its part will depend on the state of the control and planning systems of research activities in various countries.

A new landmark in strengthening of the principles of planning in the development of the scientific information, librarianship and archivistics, including the planning of research activities in these fields, is the creation of an intergovernmental Conference on planning of the national infrastructures in the field of documentation libraries and archives held in September 1974 in Paris by the UNESCO in collaboration with the international Federation for Documentation, the International Federation of Library Associations and the International Council on Archives.